GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Contents for Week of October 22, 1928. Vol. VII, No. 14

1. Franz Josef Island Claimed by the Soviet.
2. James Cook, Martyr Explorer, Whom Hawaii Honors.
3. Longest American Air Mail Route Starts: Montreal to Mexico City.
4. China Restores Its Capital to the Nanking Dragon's Back.
5. New Idea in Government Tried by Seven Nations.

© *Photograph Courtesy U. S. Post Office Dept.*

BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE THEIR LETTERS SOONER AIR MAIL MUST TRAVEL BY NIGHT

(See Bulletin No. 3)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Franz Josef Land Claimed by the Soviet

THE SOVIET flag has been raised on one of the last of the world's unclaimed lands.

Members of the Russian expedition, while visiting Franz Josef Land in search of Amundsen, the explorer, claimed that icy archipelago for the Soviet.

The political status of Franz Josef Land has not been clear. Discovered by Austro-Hungarians and explored by British, Americans, Russians and Italians, it was claimed unofficially in 1914 by Russia. The Great Powers have not expressed an opinion on the validity of this claim, however, and by many the area has been looked upon as a "no-man's land."

Uninhabited, but Men Can Live There

Although Franz Josef Land is desolate and ice-mantled and has never been inhabited, it is possible for men to exist there, even through the winter, as the history of Arctic exploration proves. The land was discovered accidentally in 1873 by an Austro-Hungarian expedition bent on finding the Northeast Passage. Their ship, caught in the ice, drifted to the southern extremity of the island group, and the crew wintered in her fast in the ice.

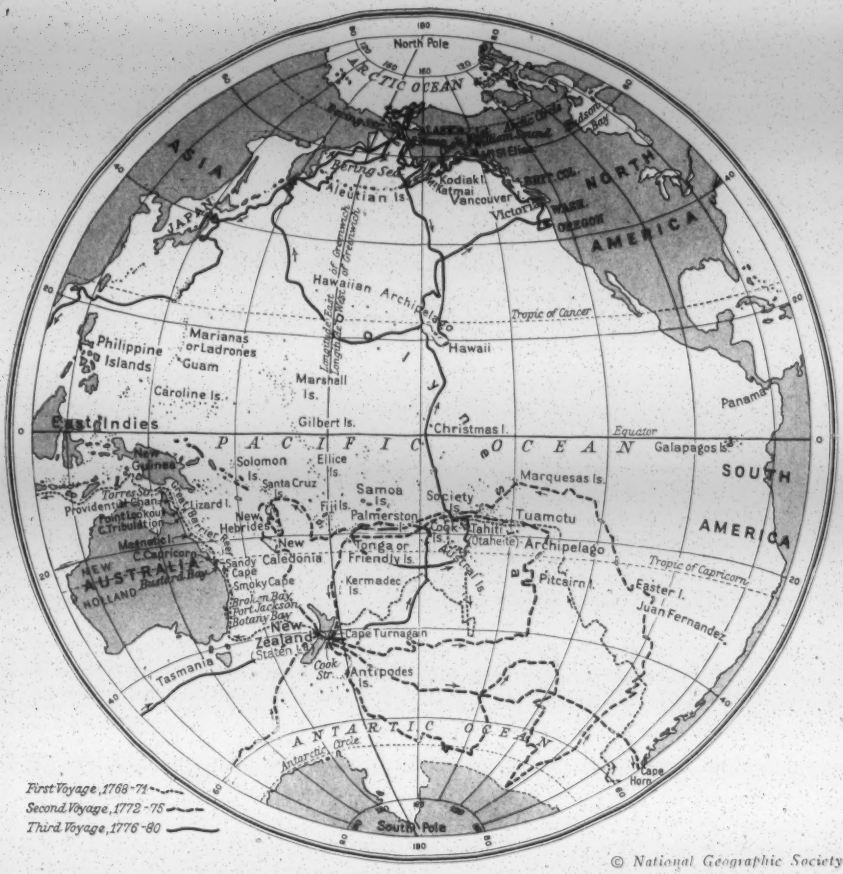
After the Swedish explorer, Andrée, disappeared in his balloon in 1897, north of Spitsbergen, close to the place at which Nobile was recently lost, explorers were hopeful that he had drifted eastward to Franz Josef Land. Walter Wellman, assisted by the National Geographic Society, led an expedition to Franz Josef Land the following year and thought it likely that he would find Andrée at Cape Flora, on one of the southernmost of the islands which was known by Andrée to be a headquarters and a frequent point of call for explorers. Andrée was not at Cape Flora, however, and no trace of him or his balloon was ever found in Franz Josef Land or elsewhere.

Franz Josef Land was named by its Austro-Hungarian discoverers under the impression that it was a large land mass, perhaps even of continental size. Later exploration disclosed that it is a group of many islands. Thirty of these are 10 miles or more in length, and the remainder—scores of them—are small. Several of the islands are as much as 50 miles long. The group lies slightly farther north than Spitsbergen. It is as far north of the Murman Coast of Russia and the northern coast of Norway as Chicago is north of New Orleans. It is about the same distance from the North Pole.

The Most Arctic Land of the Arctic

The sea between northern Spitsbergen and northern Franz Josef Land is usually packed with an almost unbroken expanse of ice, so that navigation northward is seldom possible. Even the narrower channels between the Franz Josef Islands are eternally frozen, but the larger channels become ice free in summer.

Because of its far northern position and the greater distance the Arctic arm of the Gulf Stream must flow to reach it, Franz Josef Land is marked by Arctic conditions to a greater extent than Spitsbergen. It has been called the world's "most characteristic polar land." Most of the islands are plateaus less than 1,000 feet high, covered with domes of ice. At some points the black basalt crags that form the edges of the plateaus protrude from the white ice and snow. Coastal lowlands are of small extent, except on two or three of the westermost islands.



© National Geographic Society

THE ROUTES OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK'S THREE VOYAGES THROUGH THE GREAT SOUTH SEA

Each of the famous English geographer's expeditions filled in blank spaces on the Pacific map or corrected gross errors of current atlas-making. On his first voyage he mapped the Society Islands, showed New Zealand to be two islands, and "amputated" Australia, which hitherto was considered a peninsula of New Guinea. On his second voyage he circumnavigated the Southern Hemisphere between the 40th and 67th parallels, dipping nearer the South Pole than any previous navigator, and explored New Caledonia and South Georgia. The important result of this voyage was the elimination of the great southern continent geographers believed projected northward between Africa and South America. Cook reported, however, that he thought a land body existed in the region of the South Pole. On this third voyage Cook discovered the archipelago named for him, explored the Hawaiian group, and mapped the western shores of North America from what now is Oregon to northernmost Alaska. He cruised in the Bering Sea and reported the existence of the Aleutians. Returning from these discoveries, he met his death in Hawaii.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

James Cook, Martyr Explorer, Whom Hawaii Honors

HOSPITABLE Honolulu had a celebration in August in honor of Captain James Cook, the great circumnavigator, who discovered the Hawaiian Islands 150 years ago.

The celebration centered attention on the personality of one of the most interesting of the great explorers who have pushed back the frontiers of the unknown world.

"Cook not only was a discoverer; he was truly an explorer in surveying and mapping what he found and observing what he saw," says a communication to the National Geographical Society. "To that he added the third, and immortal, distinction of finding a way to conserve the health of sailors, and thus enabled his countrymen to travel again the paths he marked out.

"We, with New York within thirty-four hours of San Francisco by airplane mail, or within instant audible reach by a twist of a radio dial, find it hard to believe that Cook was opening up the Pacific many years after the Thirteen Colonies had been settled, and that this Englishman was nosing his way along the uncharted shores of what now are Oregon and Washington States and British Columbia and Alaska while the Colonies were fighting their War of Independence.

A Self-taught, Self-made Man

"A map of the Pacific in 1768, the year that Cook first set sail for the South Seas, showed very few of the numerous island groups we know, and much of what it did show was wrong.

"Cook's life story was as rare in his day in England as it is familiar in America today—the story of a self-taught man, whose schooling was negligible. His 'book learning' he gained between voyages. While at Whitby he begged a table and a lamp from his employer's housekeeper; years later, when compelled to winter at Halifax, he first encountered Euclid. The ways of genius are inscrutable, so why waste time speculating how Cook learned navigation, mathematics and astronomy?

"After rounding Cape Horn and touching at several small islands, Cook, on April 13, 1769, reached Tahiti, and began his exploration of the archipelago, which he named the Society Islands, in honor of the Royal Society under whose auspices he had sailed.

"Before leaving Tahiti, Cook planted watermelons, oranges, limes and other seeds—an activity which, in addition to his subsequent gifts of poultry and pigs at other places, changed the geography of many islands.

"After visiting New Zealand and Australia, Cook put in at Batavia, Java, and then sailed home.

Sailed Four Months without Sighting Land

His second voyage lasted 3 years and 16 days. For one period he was at sea for 122 days; at another time for 117 days, upon the latter occasion sailing for more than 10,000 miles over strange seas without once sighting land.

"Cook was the first Englishman to pierce the Antarctic Circle, dipping nearer the South Pole than any other voyager had ventured, or was to venture again for fifty years. The Terra Incognita fades away. The Pacific expands to its true proportions—some 9,300 miles from the Bering Strait to the frozen waters of the Antarctic. Another large island, New Caledonia, breaks its vast expanse, and smaller ones take shape.

UMI

The vegetation of the few snow-free spots is scant, consisting only of lichens, mosses, and several grasses. The animal life, too, is meager: for the most part, a few polar bears and fewer foxes on land; walruses and seals in the water. The bird life is the richest. Great flocks of little auks, dovekies, and other birds frequent the islands from March to September. There are no reindeer, however, and no hares.

But the Music of London Can Be Heard There

One important item for castaways is the existence of considerable quantities of driftwood along the shores of the inter-island channels. This is evidently wood cast out into the Arctic Ocean by the great northward flowing rivers of Siberia such as the Obi and the Yenisei.

The latest exploration in the Franz Josef archipelago was in 1925 by a British expedition which carried into the region the first modern radio equipment. The party constantly checked its time by radio signals from the Eiffel Tower, Paris, and listened to music and announcements from London and other stations.

Bulletin No. 1, October 22, 1928.

© *National Geographic Society*

BOUND FOR THE NORTH POLE

It was from Spitsbergen, which is the Arctic neighbor of Franz Josef Land, that Commander Byrd (center), with his aviation pilot, the late Floyd Bennett, at his left, flew to the North Pole. The explorer and his associates are wearing parkas (the outer fur garment with the attached hood) which were shipped from Nome, Alaska. The plane in which Commander Byrd expects to fly to the South Pole is named in honor of Floyd Bennett.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Longest American Air Mail Route Starts: Montreal to Mexico City

LESS than a year after Colonel Lindbergh's non-stop Washington-to-Mexico City flight, the air mail follows him across the border.

Postoffice departments of the Mexican, the United States and Canadian governments started the new international service on October 1.

Thus 1928 should see the creation of an air mail route more than 3,000 miles long, the longest in North America.

Cities which are stations on the Canada-United States-Mexico route are: Montreal (or Boston), New York, Washington, Richmond, Atlanta, Birmingham, Mobile, New Orleans, Houston (possibly San Antonio), Laredo, Nuevo Laredo (where the Mexican division begins), Monterrey, San Luis Potosi and Mexico City. (Note: Temporarily mail is routed via Chicago, increasing the distance flown by 200 miles.)

When citizens finally attain to the privileges of a stamped letter, the new air route will unroll for travelers a longitudinal section of the continent. The service slices North America just as the New York-San Francisco air line cuts a cross section of the United States. In forty-eight hours planes speed from the land of baked beans to the land of chili con carne; from the seaside metropolis of New York to the mountain valley metropolis of Mexico City; from the cotton fields and canebrakes of the South to the orange orchards and corn and wheat fields of the Southern Republic.

Six Day Transit Cut in Half

Air mail planes leaving New York Monday noon, for example, carry letters scheduled to arrive at Laredo at noon the next day. The transit time by train is four days. Mexican planes pick up the relay next morning, reaching the capital about 5:40 p.m., cutting the letter-delivery time between New York and Mexico City by three days.

It is even true that the three capitals of North America—Mexico City, Washington and Ottawa—are connected by air, as all the various services dovetail because Montreal and Ottawa are already connected by air mail.

To the "Chicago of Mexico" and the One-time Capital of Texas

Once in Mexico, the new air mail route follows the National Railways of Mexico line south from Nuevo Laredo. For 165 miles over the sun-baked, cactus-spiked semi-desert there is almost nothing of interest; but Monterrey, the first stop, is a good introduction to Mexico, partly because it is not entirely Mexican. English is spoken quite widely, and there are American magazines and even an English language newspaper, to assure the traveler from the North that he has not entirely cut himself off from his homeland. Monterrey also smokes familiarly with many factories, for it is the chief manufacturing city of Mexico, and in this industrial activity there is a reminder which has given the city its nickname, "the Chicago of Mexico."

From Monterrey the air mail plane has to climb over encircling mountains to skirt Saltillo, which has been made a regular stop. Peaks and ridges confront the pilot on every hand from Monterrey south, and the farther he goes the higher they rise. It is not flying country.

At Saltillo the air mail will be in the capital of Texas—or what was once the capital of Texas—for Saltillo is the capital of Coahuila, a state which at one time

"It was on Cook's third voyage, which began on July 11, 1776, that he discovered the Hawaiian Islands. His ships, the *Resolution* and the *Discovery*, sailed east around the Cape of Good Hope, across the Indian Ocean and south of Australia and Tasmania to New Zealand. Much time was spent in various islands farther east and north, and it was not until early in 1778 that the voyagers sighted Kauai of the Hawaiian group. This first contact of Cook with Hawaii was but a fleeting one. He pressed on north and east and spent many months skirting the shores that were to be later labeled, 'Oregon,' 'Washington,' and 'Alaska.'

"Then he sailed back toward Hawaii, where he met some of the most remarkable experiences of his adventurous lifetime—and his death.

A Royal Welcome by the Natives of Hawaii

"As the *Resolution* put into Kealakekau Bay, Hawaii, Cook was amazed at the welcome he received. Natives lined the shore, and more than a thousand canoes gathered around the ship.

"His wonderment increased when he went ashore and was conducted to a native altar mound, where he became the principal, though passive, figure in an elaborate ritual.

"At the culmination of the ceremony the worshipers prepared kava, a procedure that began with priests chewing pieces of coconut and rubbing them on the face and arms of the explorer. The juices of this concoction were passed around, and then they fed Cook and Captain King, who accompanied him, with the flesh of the sacrificial animals.

"Thereafter when the visitor landed a native escort accompanied him, the people prostrated themselves before him, and presents of provisions were bestowed upon both vessels far in excess of their needs. The monarch of the island, upon first meeting Cook, removed his mantle and threw it over the leader's shoulders.

"Cook sailed away, unaware of the significance of this extraordinary hospitality. Encountering severe gales and being unable to find a better harbor, he returned again to Kealakekau, to find the natives indifferent at first, and later hostile.

They Thought Cook a God until He Came Back

"The explanation of this reversal of feeling lay in the fact that the islanders construed Cook's first visit as a long expected second coming of their deity.

"Once upon a time, it seemed, there had lived a god of peace and plenty named Rono. This god found his wife, the beautiful Opuna, unfaithful to him, so he flung her over a cliff. He mourned for a time, then left the island, so the legend ran, with the parting promise, 'I will return in after times, on an island bearing trees and swine and dogs.'

"When the masts and sails of the English vessels were sighted, and later when the animals were seen on board, the islanders proceeded to do obeisance to Rono, in the person of Captain Cook.

"When Cook sailed away they considered the prophecy fulfilled; there had been no mention of his third coming, and their provisions were exhausted by the lavish gifts. Even a god can wear out his welcome.

The Death of a Great Commander

"Early the next morning as they neared the water Cook turned to signal the boat to pull in for his party. One native struck him over the head, and, as he fell forward, another stabbed him in the back.

"A few bones of Cook's body were returned after the natives had stripped it of the flesh, and on February 21, according to a brief entry in the ship's journal, 'At sunset the *Resolution* fired ten minute guns, with the colours half staff up, when the remains of our late Commander were committed to the deep.' Missionaries, on later visits to Hawaii, learned that the breastbone and ribs long were preserved by the islanders as objects of veneration."

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

China Restores Its Capital to the Nanking Dragon's Back

NANKING, the new capital of China!

Nanking, the old capital, too, for Nanking was a capital of Cathay when Peking was a village.

The very name Nanking means "south capital"; Peking means "north capital."

Nanking occupies a much more central position than Peking. It lies 210 miles up from the mouth of the Yangtze, the river which is the major trade artery of China. It is almost equidistant from the southern border, where China touches French Indo-China, and the Great Wall, accepted as the new northern boundary. It is 550 miles south of Peking as a plane flies and 650 miles north of the metropolis of Canton.

A Capital on a Dragon's Back

While Nanking first became a capital about 200 A. D., it remained for the Ming emperors in the fourteenth century to steep it in grandeur.

Chu Hung Wo, the first Ming emperor, stood on a hill south of the Yangtze now occupied by the buildings of the missionary University of Nanking. He looked along the low line of hills that crawl undulating for 5 miles to the Yangtze shore. To him the hills looked like the sprawling body of the sacred dragon. Said Chu Hung Wo, "If I can build my capital on a dragon's back, it will last forever."

So he built a wall around his "dragon." It stands today, 32 miles of encircling masonry. Over the ancient barrier a handful of Americans from the Consulate made a dramatic escape last year during the sack of Nanking.

Ming walls also inclose the two native cities, one at the head and one at the tail of the "dragon hills." The University of Nanking, which is the creation of four religious denominations of the United States, occupies 80 acres on one of the dragon's humps. Chinese temples sit atop others. An American oil company owned a hill near the green beast's head where it "sips of the Yangtze."

Turnips and Bamboo Where Ming and Manchu Palaces Once Stood

But Nanking in modern times has never grown up to the Mings' ambitions. Although its population of 400,000 is an increase of nearly 100 per cent in twenty years, there remains ample room for farms within the circle of the barricade. Turnips grow and bamboo stalks wave where Ming and Manchu palaces once stood.

Will the new turn of the wheel bring better fortune to Nanking? Probably. As capital of a united China it might soon enter the "more than a million" population class, fill the walls, and flow out through the city gates.

Railroads, which have made so many American cities, have done much for modern Nanking. The most important rail line in China ferries across from Nanking to Pukow on the north bank of the Yangtze. The rail line runs from Shanghai 193 miles to Nanking. Crossing the river, the railroad goes north 628 miles to Tientsin, and from there 86 miles to Peking. From Tientsin to Nanking, the railroad parallels the Grand Canal of China and has robbed that veteran waterway of much of its business. It is the railroad which has doubled Nanking's population.

Three-day Examinations for Chinese Schoolboys

Although the city thus appears in modern dress, its hoary past has not been obliterated. Outside the walls the old Ming tombs can be reached at the ends of avenues flanked by carved stone animals.

included Texas but has been shorn of most of the vast acreage it commanded in Mexico's heyday.

Lovely San Luis Potosi, next stop, a clean, sparkling city, lies in a beautiful valley. Although it is below the Tropic of Cancer line, its summer temperatures are cooler than the hottest spells most American cities must endure; and yet San Luis Potosi has groves of citrus and other tropical fruits at its very doors.

Fortunately the mines that have made the city and have built its innumerable magnificent churches, occur not too close to tarnish the municipal housekeeping. And although they were discovered by the Spaniards, the mines continue to be worked to this day. More than $3,000,000 in silver is said to be minted every year in San Luis Potosi.

About halfway between San Luis Potosi and Mexico City the air mail pays its respects to Queretaro, the chief historical shrine of Mexico. The Mexican Republic was born here when plotters, who have become heroes, planned the overthrow of Spain's power. Later Queretaro lived amid more great days when Maximilian and his handful of defenders were captured, tried and executed on the hill where the Austrians have built a memorial.

Bulletin No. 3, October 22, 1928.

© *National Geographic Society*

WHITBY, JAMES COOK'S HOME TOWN

From quaint old Whitby, James Cook, "the Columbus of the Pacific," first sailed as a ship's boy. The great discoverer was a self-made man, having had very little schooling (See Bulletin No. 2).

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

New Idea in Government Tried by Seven Nations

ALTHOUGH the presidential campaign holds the spotlight this fall, the States are also voting for members of Congress.

The customary method of electing the senators and representatives in the United States—that is, from geographical districts—stands in contrast with certain new experiments in government undertaken in Europe.

Germany, Yugoslavia, Poland, Soviet Russia, Austria, and Italy are the experimenters. Advance reports on Spain's newly drawn constitution make her the latest addition to the group.

These nations propose to select some or all representatives by trades instead of geographical districts.

If the United States Tried the Scheme

Occupational representation, as it is called, can best be understood by imagining our own American government remade to fit it. Members of the Senate, for example, would not be elected two from each State. They would be sent to Congress by various organizations: one senator from the American Medical Association; one senator from the Manufacturers' Association; one senator from the "Big Four" Railroad Brotherhoods; one senator from the National Education Association; one senator from the Women's Clubs, etc. All Americans of voting age would be classified by their work, and through the occupational organizations, unions, associations, clubs, etc., they would select national representatives.

Like so many things under the sun, the idea is not new. The "three estates" of feudal government were roughly occupational: nobility, clergy and the commoners.

But the modern phase begins with Article 165 of the post-war German Republican constitution and with the Russian Soviet development. Article 165 provides for Workers' Councils in all the factories and a national Economic Council. The latter is to be composed as follows:

68 representatives of agriculture and forestry.
68 representatives of general industry.
44 representatives of commerce and banking.
36 representatives of small business (handicraft).
34 representatives of transport services.
6 representatives of markets and fisheries.
30 representatives of consumers (cities, consumers' associations and women's organizations).
16 representatives of civil service and professions.
24 representatives named by government.

Of the 68 representatives of general industry, half are labor men and half employers. Thus the Potash Syndicate, in this group, has two representatives, one for capital and one for labor.

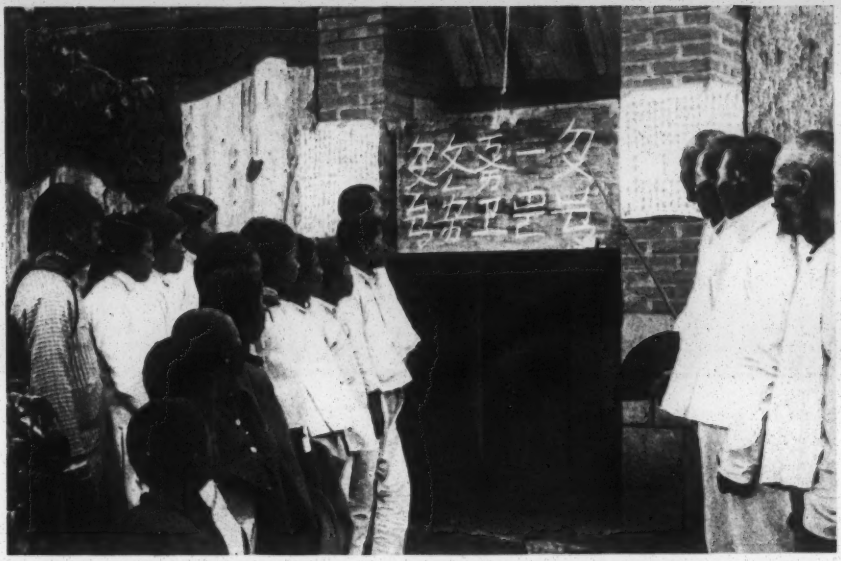
Germany Goes Cautiously—Gives New Council Small Power

Germany has proceeded cautiously. The Economic Council to date has been given advisory powers only. It cannot be said to have performed, as yet, any great deeds.

Each Austrian province has been instructed to organize a Workers' Chamber consisting of laborers and clerical employees in industry and laborers and clerical

Inside the walls are some of the old examination halls, monuments to an abandoned educational system. The halls consist of row on row of stone cubby-holes about the size of telephone booths. Ambitious young Chinese to the number of 10,000 would enter these booths to take civil service examinations for government positions. For three days they answered questions, writing down from memory passages from Confucius and Mencius. Often students would be found dead in the compartments after the ordeal.

Bulletin No. 4, October 22, 1928.



© *Photograph by J. T. McGarvey*

LEARNING THEIR LANGUAGE ALL OVER AGAIN

Nanking was the capital of the old written, or classical, Mandarin Chinese language, which contains thousands of characters. Ten thousand students at a time took examinations in the difficult language in Nanking's examination cubby-holes. To remedy the difficulty with the old language and make possible a written language for the education of the masses, a new and much simpler phonetic script has been written. See, also, Bulletin entitled "Where Alphabets Come From," issue of October 15, 1928.

employees in public service. Poland, Yugoslavia, and even the Free City of Danzig, on the other hand, have experimented with their central government.

A soviet is itself an occupational group like a farmers' grange or a workers' council, so it is natural to find the Soviet government developing the new plan most vigorously. Yet the Russian contribution to the test carries less weight because in their land capital has no rights to speak of and one city laborer's vote is equal to five farmers' votes by the present Soviet system of counting ballots.

Newspapers recently carried Mussolini's announcements condemning parliamentary government and banishing it from Fascist Italy. What has he placed in its stead?

Italian Voters Belong to One of 13 Groups

Occupational representation for one thing. The Italian government, since the Fascist revolution, has been in a state of flux, but at the present time its constitution and practice are definitely occupational. Three groups were first proposed: capital, labor, and the professions, but professional men and their organizations have been added to the labor group.

Workers and voters in Italy to-day belong to one of thirteen confederations:

Employers' organizations:

1. National Fascist Confederation of Industry.
2. National Fascist Confederation of Agriculture.
3. National Fascist Confederation of Merchants.
4. National Fascist Confederation of Maritime and Aerial Transport.
5. National Fascist Confederation of Land Transport, and Inland Navigation.
6. National Fascist Confederation of Bankers.

Labor organizations:

7. National Federation of Fascist Syndicates in Industry.
8. National Federation of Fascist Syndicates in Agriculture.
9. National Federation of Fascist Syndicates in Commerce.
10. National Federation of Fascist Syndicates in Maritime and Aerial Transport.
11. National Federation of Fascist Syndicates in Land Transport and Inland Navigation.
12. National Federation of Fascist Syndicates in Banks.
13. National Federation of Fascist Syndicates of Intellectuals.

So Italy has organized labor and capital into two groups. Over the thirteen corporations Mussolini has set an under-secretary of corporations who seems to have the task of exalted peacemaker. This all-important official must settle the differences arising between the two groups in the name of a better and more prosperous Italy.

Bulletin No. 5, October 22, 1928.